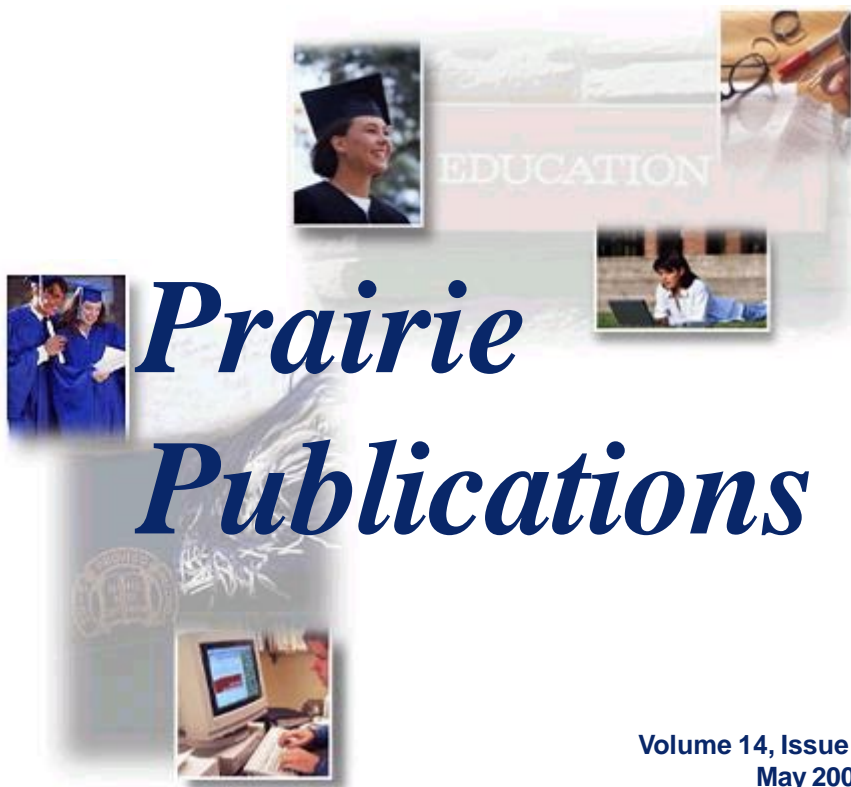


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Prairie Publications

**Volume 14, Issue 5
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Alliance Lender Workshops Scheduled

The annual Alliance lender workshops are being planned for May 21-23, 2002 at various sites in North Dakota. Tentative sites chosen are: Minot, Bismarck, Fargo, Dickinson, Grand Forks, and Carrington.

These workshops are for lenders who have an alliance relationship in which student loan borrowers are referred to Bank of North Dakota.

The workshops last approximately 90 minutes and will cover topics such as:

- Overview of the student loan process
- Loan programs
- Loan indebtedness
- Marketing ideas
- E-signature
- Web site

Alliance lenders should have received an invitation by the time of this publication. If you have questions concerning the workshop or did not receive an invitation, please contact Char Feist at 1-800-472-2166 ext. 5753 or e-mail to cfeist@state.nd.us.

Holly Schirado, New Loans Supervisor - SLND

NDASFAA Update

After a wonderful NDASFAA conference, we are all back to work and enjoying our spring weather (today anyway)! It was great to see all of you at our conference and hope that all found their way home.

A tremendous thanks goes to Donna Wuitschick and MaryAnne Whitman, the NDASFAA Conference Committee Co-Chairs and their committee! They did an absolutely terrific job of organizing our conference at Prairie Knights Lodge.

To give you a quick recap, we started with Decentralized Training from Don Flaherty and James Broscheit, who did a great job presenting much needed information on verification, cash management, PPAs and FERPA. RNASFAA Conference and NDASFAA Committee meetings started Wednesday morning and ended with our business meeting, where we also received a RNASFAA update from Darry Voigt, President. We, eventually, were ready to begin our tour of Sitting Bull College, where we also had a wonderful meal sponsored by the Ikce Oyate Culture Club. After our meal, we had the pleasure of seeing and listening to the Lakota Thunder and Dance Theater, which was an enjoyable experience of color, dance, and drums. Thursday was full of information through different sessions, including Jacque Straub, who provided our federal update. The luncheon speaker was Mary Louise Defender-Wilson who mesmerized us by portraying her grandmother. We appreciated Ruben Guerrero and Deb Frazier presenting the RNASFAA Road Rally. They did a fantastic job! Our banquet was held that evening with John Gritts as our speaker. John gave an eloquent talk that inspired all. We ended our conference with a delicious breakfast and a summary of NDSU's Debt Management Program by Kristi Holler. Prizes were given and good-byes said.

I have just spoken to Donna (to find out how to spell Ikce Oyate!) and she asked that I pass on her thanks to you for giving Sitting Bull College the opportunity to host our conference. I think everyone that was present would agree that it was one of the best learning experiences that we could have asked for. Many of us learned how to find our way in very "rural" country; experience culture and great food; step into history for a moment and then back; enjoy colleagues who are friends; and returned much more enlightened. Just to note, there will be pictures from the conference on www.ndasfaa.org, so check out what I am talking about.

Congratulations go to our newly nominated and approved officers for 2003. Bob Parisien will be our new President-Elect. Don Flaherty will continue as Secretary, and Jackie Ohme is our new Associate Member-at-Large. Ruth Gress will continue in the second year of her term as Treasurer. As a result of discussion at the business meeting, the Electronic Initiatives Committee may be surveying the membership about our NDASFAA Web site. Another point of business is that our conference site for Spring 2003 has moved from Valley City to Fargo due to the involvement of VCSU in the ERP pilot project. The minutes of the meeting will soon be available on our Web site so that you may check out the details.

Lynn Aaberg - President, NDASFAA

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ATTN: Program Development
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Available online at mystudentloanonline.com

Administered by Bank of North Dakota
overseen by Industrial Commission of North Dakota

GOVERNOR
John Hoeven

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Wayne Stenehjem

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
Roger Johnson

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By Student Loans of North Dakota is a newsletter circulated to lenders, college financial aid and admissions personnel, high school guidance counselors, other guaranty agencies, and individuals needing information about student loans. *All articles are of the writer's opinion and should not be construed as Student Loans of North Dakota policy unless so stated.*

BND to Produce Unique College Awareness CD-ROM

As announced at NDASFAA, Bank of North Dakota (BND) is developing an informational early awareness CD-ROM to promote North Dakota colleges to parents, middle, and high school students and extended family members.

This is an exciting new project that will utilize technology to help answer questions as parents and high school students look into the process of making their dreams for a higher education come true. The CD-ROM will open with a video message from teenagers looking for information about attending college and will then move on to cover a variety of topics and provide links to Web sites that provide useful information for future students.

High school students have many questions regarding their future education. The CD-ROM being produced by BND can help students answer many of their questions including one fundamental question, *"Which college should I attend?"* We will incorporate a promotional page for each ND college, including a link to their Web site (if available). The school pages will be eye-catching and incorporate bells and whistles to gain the attention of potential students. BND has also made arrangements so that you may have a brief promotional video (if available) highlighting your institution on your individual page. One of our goals will be to keep the information on the CD-ROM very general and to link to more specific information on individual Web sites. This will allow us to extend the shelf life of the CD-ROM.

We have contracted with KAT Productions, Inc., Bismarck, for this project. In the near future, we will be contacting each school's Public Relations department in order to gather the information necessary to develop your page.

The distribution of the CD-ROM will be widespread and will include middle and high school students, parents, and extended family members. We also plan to distribute the CD-ROM to BND customers that have already made a financial commitment to higher education by participating in our College SAVE program. By targeting the many out-of-state participants in College SAVE, we have a unique opportunity to assist your institution with recruitment efforts by introducing the many opportunities that are offered by North Dakota colleges and universities.

Please discuss the CD-ROM with the appropriate individuals at your institution in order to build awareness of this upcoming project. If you have any feedback or would like more information, please contact Shirley Glass by e-mail at sglass@state.nd.us or by calling 1-800-472-2166 ext. 5792.

Shirley Glass, Associate Director of Loan Servicing

DEAL Interest Rate Drops to 6.75%

The interest rate charged on Bank of North Dakota's Dakota Education Alternative Loan (DEAL) became an even better DEAL! The rate recently dropped to 6.75%, helping make college even more affordable for students.

When a student selects a DEAL loan, the interest rate remains fixed for the life of the loan. Bank of North Dakota does, from time-to-time, adjust this rate, as we are expecting to do this year should the economy begin to make improvements; however, any future interest rate change only affects new loans.

In this past fiscal year, we saw a 200% increase in DEAL volume. The increase demonstrates public acceptance of fixed interest rate loans, with a low 4% origination fee, in today's economy.

*Wally Erhardt, Associate Director of Operations
SLND-Guarantor*

NDAAC Update

Greetings from NDAAC!

Members recently gathered in Sioux Falls, SD for our Dakota Association of College Admission Counseling annual conference and meeting. At the meeting, bylaws were changed to enhance our relationship with our national organization, National Association of College Admission Counseling. We are very excited about the change and look forward to working more closely together!

As of July 1, 2002, our organization will be referred to as the Dakota Association of College Admission Counseling North Dakota Council. Or, rather than NDAAC, we will now be the North Dakota Council. Complicated, but exciting!

A new Chair was also elected. Dan Klein, Director of Enrollment Services at Valley City State University, will now serve as the North Dakota Council Chair. Look for future articles from Dan.

We are working on our *North Dakota Guide to Higher Education*, a book that contains information regarding options for students in North Dakota. College Fair contracts will also soon be sent!

This will be my last article for this publication. Have a great summer!

Jobey Lichtblau - Past President of NDAAC

SLND “All Star” of the Month

Joyce Fetch was chosen as SLND’s “All Star” of the Month for April.

Joyce started working for SLND as a part-time File Clerk in February 1995. She was promoted to a full-time Application Processor for the New Loans area in March of the same year. In December 1996, Joyce transferred to the position of Loan Processor and transferred to her current position of Audit Technician in July 1999.

Joyce is always aware of the significance to get large projects completed in an efficient manner and as quickly as possible. Recently, a large project developed and she assisted in training staff in her area to help with the completion. Through a dedicated effort, the project was finished on time. Joyce demonstrated her organization and teamwork skills in completing the assignment. Job well done! *Congratulations!*



DOE Announces Address Change for Submission of Lender Compliance Audits

The U. S. Department of Education recently mailed letters to lenders notifying them of a new address to submit lender compliance audits. The following is their notice:

Dear Compliance Officer/Internal Auditor:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the **new address to submit your lender compliance audits.** Sections 428 (b)(1)(U)(iii)(I) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and Section 682.305 (c)(1) of the Code of Federal Regulations requires any lender that made or held more than \$5 million in Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans during the fiscal year being audited to submit the compliance audit report to the Department of Education no later than 6 months after the close of the audit period regardless of whether the report identifies findings of noncompliance.

To ensure that we receive your audits, please use the address listed below (**USPS only**):

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Financial Partners, Partner Services
Union Center Plaza 111G3
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5138
ATTENTION: Greg Senseney

When using FedEx, the address is:

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Financial Partners, Partner Services
830 First Street, NE
11th Floor, Room 111G3
Washington, D.C. 20002
ATTENTION: Greg Senseney

HECN - Student Information Systems Report

As we move closer to the full start of the ERP implementation, I'd like to take the time to let you know a little about how you will continue to get resolution of your day-to-day questions, problems, or other concerns.

Paula and Tricia, from the financial aid side of our office, and myself will have moved to 100 percent commitment to the ERP by the end of April. At that time, we were not available to answer our phones or be reached easily on a day-to-day basis, but your questions and problems didn't go away just because this implementation was underway.

A committee has been assigned the responsibility of formulating a process so that you can continue to receive the support our office has been providing over the years. An announcement concerning this process should have been made in the last few weeks of April. Hopefully, this process will make an almost seamless transition from our helping you to other sources of assistance.

Our office is excited about what will happen in the coming months. Our current system has supported our needs very well for nearly 20 years, but as we move ahead with the anticipation of a new system, we are glad that this new system is coming. We hope to be able to help formulate the very best system possible to meet the needs of the coming years.

As we do that, we ask for your help and encouragement by working within the new process for getting support and answers to your questions.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 701-777-5031 or use my e-mail address which is charles_fjeld@mail.und.nodak.edu.

*Charles Fjeld, Business Analyst
NDUS, HECN-SIS, Grand Forks, ND*

Upcoming Events

South Dakota Credit Union League Annual Meeting - May 16-17 - Rapid City, SD

NCHELP 2002 Spring Convention - May 19-22 - Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Alliance Lender Workshops - May 21-23 - Minot, Bismarck, Fargo, Dickinson, Grand Forks, and Carrington

NDBA/SDBA Annual Convention - June 9-11 - Ramada Plaza Suites - Fargo, ND

Student Loans of North Dakota
1-800-643-3916 (TDD)
1-701-328-5716 (FAX)
mystudentloanonline.com
bndsl@state.nd.us
SLND-Administration

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Associate Director of Fiscal Services	Al Nosbusch 328-5742
Administrative Assistant	Karen Keller 328-5791
Quality Assurance Officer	John Kramer 328-5726

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SLND-Guarantor

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Data Processing Coordinator	Karen Iverson 328-5663
Loan Guarantees	Elaine Fischer 328-5754

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	Jenny Kringstad 328-5680
Postclaim Assistance	Leslie Schmit 328-5662

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SLND-Loan Servicing

Associate Director - Loan Servicing	Shirley Glass 328-5792
General Repayment & Delinquent Account Information. 328-5660

<i>sglass@state.nd.us</i>

New Loans:

Supervisor	Holly Schirado 328-5751
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Cancellations/Revisions	Jeanne Thomas 328-5761
General New Loans Information 328-5763

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<i>jthomas@state.nd.us</i>

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Kim Miller 328-5828
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<i>kmmiller@state.nd.us</i>

College Information Service/Program Development
1-800-554-2717

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Coordinator	Peggy Anderson 328-5657
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